

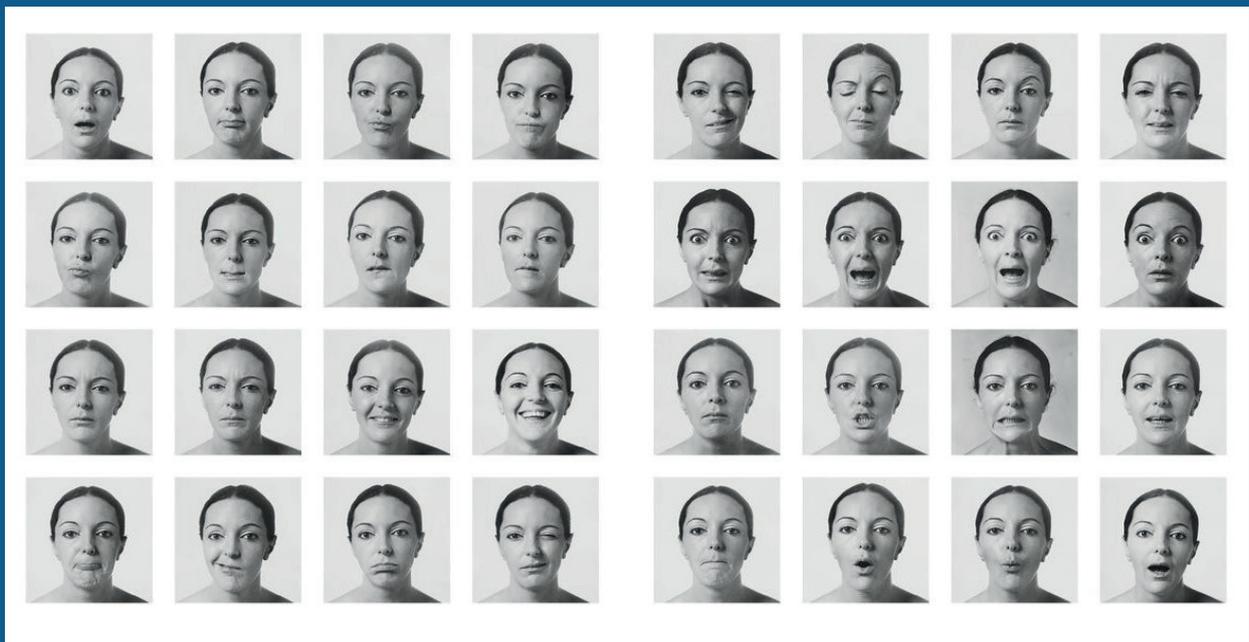


ROYAL
HOLLOWAY
UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

Estorick Collection
of modern italian art

One-day Symposium – Call for Papers

Ketty La Rocca and Women Artists of the Italian Neo-avant-garde



Tuesday 11 November 2025, 9.30 – 18.00
Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art, London

Followed by a drinks reception, and an opportunity to view the exhibition
Ketty La Rocca: You You as well as the Estorick's permanent collection

Convenors:

- Giuliana Pieri, Royal Holloway University of London
- Roberta Cremoncini, Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art

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From her early collaboration with the visual poets of the Florentine Gruppo 70, to her later conceptual art that brought her to the attention of leading international feminist critics and practitioners, Italian visual poet and artist Ketty La Rocca (1938–1976) has left behind a body of work that spans genres and media, including collage, performance, photography, video and body art. Yet she neither belongs to the canon of the Italian *Neoavanguardia* nor is she a well-established figure in the history of Italian art of the postwar era. As Lucy Lippard highlighted in her seminal book *From the Centre* (1976), during 1960s and 1970s women artists often met with a negative reception because of their perceived “lack of compliance with the evolutionary mainstream” of the art world.

La Rocca’s early experimentation with collage and text, her increasingly complex relationship with language in visual and concrete poetry, and her later groundbreaking use of videotape and feminist action, call for reevaluation of her work and, importantly, offer a novel lens through which to rethink the work of postwar Italian art, neo-avant-garde practices, Italian feminist art, and the role of those artists and art forms that operated outside established boundaries.

Organised to coincide with the first UK museum exhibition dedicated to the artist’s brief yet stimulating career, Royal Holloway University of London and the Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art invite 250-word proposals for cross-disciplinary papers of 20 minutes, or short work-in-progress papers of 10 minutes, taking the above themes as a starting point and exploring them in the context of art history and literary or cultural studies.

Themes for investigation might include, but are not limited to:

- New readings of La Rocca’s work
- Intermedia experimentation in Italy c. 1960–75
- Italian feminism in the 1960s and 1970s

All proposals should be sent to symposium@estorickcollection.com by 31 August 2025

This symposium aims to foster inclusivity and diversity. The organisers are especially eager to encourage and enhance representation and participation from under-represented groups, and to develop an environment rooted in a belief of equal respect for all persons.

Generously supported by

